

# CĂTĂLINA CANGEA

King's College, Cambridge CB2 1ST, United Kingdom  
catalina.cangea@gmail.com ♦ [www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~ccc53](http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~ccc53)

## PERSONAL PROFILE

---

Outgoing PhD student in Machine Learning at the University of Cambridge, with thesis titled ‘*Exploiting multimodality and structure in world representations*’. Born on May 17, 1994 in Ploiești, România.

## EDUCATION

---

### Department of Computer Science and Technology, University of Cambridge, UK

PhD in Machine Learning (10/2017–03/2021) *No thesis corrections. Examiners: Nic Lane, Xavier Bresson*

MPhil in Advanced Computer Science (10/2016–07/2017) *Distinction (81%)*

BA in Computer Science (10/2013–06/2016) *First Class (75%) in final year*

### Colegiul Național ”I.L.Caragiale”, Ploiești, România

Computer Science & Mathematics (09/2009–05/2013) *Valedictorian (GPA 10/10)*

## SELECTED RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

---

### Message Passing Neural Processes (joint first)

Neural Process with relational inductive bias for graph-structured datasets. Strong generalisation on Cellular Automata tasks, significant gains in arbitrary-labelling and few-shot tasks. Under review.

### Deep Graph Mapper: Seeing Graphs through the Neural Lens (joint first)

A fusion between Mapper (Topological Data Analysis) and graph neural networks that produces highly informative graph visualisations and a powerful pooling layer. *Frontiers 2021, NeurIPS-W 2020 TDA.*

### VideoNavQA: Bridging the Gap between Visual and Embodied Question Answering

Novel task that studies QA performance in EQA-like settings with nearly-ideal navigation paths. Generalised VQA models for temporal reasoning. *BMVC 2019, NeurIPS-W 2019 ViGIL spotlight.*

### Towards Sparse Hierarchical Graph Classifiers (joint first)

CNN-like architecture with sparse pooling for graph-structured data. Matched SOTA on benchmarks, memory reduced from  $O(V^2)$  to  $O(V + E)$ . *NeurIPS-W 2018 R2L.*

### XFlow: Cross-modal Deep Neural Networks for Audiovisual Classification

Cross-modal dataflow multimodal architectures. SOTA on benchmarks. *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems 2019, ARM Research Summit 2017, ICDL-EPIROB-W 2017 CMCML.*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

### Research Scientist Intern—DeepMind

July 2020–November 2020

Hosted by Piotr Mirowski in the Robotics, Embodied Agents and Lifelong learning (REAL) team led by Raia Hadsell.

### Consultant—Relation Therapeutics

June 2020–July 2020

Developing (graph-)ML solutions to aid in drug development and repurposing efforts.

**AI Resident—X, the moonshot factory**

May 2019–August 2019

Worked on an early-stage project, using and adapting recent ML techniques to a real-world problem.

**Research Intern—Mila**

July 2018–September 2018

Collaboration with Aaron Courville on a visual reasoning project which resulted in a novel benchmark and alternative perspective on EQA-style tasks. BMVC publication and NeurIPS ViGIL spotlight talk.

**Software Engineer Intern—Facebook London**

June 2016–September 2016

Worked on the LogDevice team, making client operations on a distributed RocksDB data store more efficient and flexible, while leading to fewer system failures.

**Software Engineer Intern—Facebook New York**

July 2015–September 2015

Worked on iOS Product Infrastructure to reduce the time taken by the Facebook iOS app to load content close to the screen current view. Improved the infrastructure and network request prioritisation system.

**STEP Intern—Google Zürich**

June 2014–September 2014

Added processing progress for video uploads on YouTube. Developed a JavaScript client implementation that requests processing information from the server and thumbnail rendering of processing videos.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

---

**Organiser**, ViGIL Workshop, North American Chapter of the ACL 2021

2020–June 2021

**Machine Learning Teaching Fellow**, Cambridge Spark

May 2018–May 2021

**Chair/Deputy chair**, women@CL, University of Cambridge

October 2018–July 2020

**TEACHING / SUPERVISING**

---

**Lectures:** *Graph Generation and Probabilistic Methods - R250 Advanced Topics in ML and NLP (Master's course)* (2021), *Graph Generation Methods - R250* (2020)

**Master's projects:** *Machine Unlearning* (2020–21), *Structure-aware Generation of Molecules in Protein Pockets* (2020–21), *Goal-conditioned Reinforcement Learning in the Presence of an Adversary* (2019–20, NeurIPS-W DeepRL), *Representation Learning for Spatio-Temporal Graphs* (2018–19, ICLR-W RLGM), *Dynamic Temporal Analysis for Graph Structured Data* (2018–19, ICLR-W RLGM)

**Undergraduate projects:** *Benchmarking Graph Neural Networks using Wikipedia* (2019–20, ICML-W GRL+ spotlight), *Multimodal Relational Reasoning for Visual Question Answering* (2019–20), *The PlayStation Reinforcement Learning Environment* (2018–19, NeurIPS-W DeepRL), *Deep Learning for Music Recommendation* (2017–18)

**Courses:** AI, Databases, Discrete Maths, Foundations of CS, Logic & Proof, ML & Real-World Data

**PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

---

**Programming Languages**

Python, C, C++, Standard ML, Java, C#, Objective-C, JavaScript

**Machine Learning APIs**

PyTorch, JAX, Keras, TF1, PyG, Haiku, Graph Nets, Sonnet, CUDA

**LANGUAGES**

---

English (fluent), French (beginner), Romanian (native)

**INTERESTS**

---

**Music**

Guitar and vocals in a rock band—played in colleges, pubs and at Cambridge May Balls

**Rowing**King's Women's 1<sup>st</sup> Boat (Jan 2018–June 2021), Darwin/King's 2<sup>nd</sup> Boat (Jan–Dec 2017)